

MEMORANDUM

14 February 1967

TO: JIM CARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FROM: WILLIAM GURVICH
INVESTIGATOR

SUBJ: SEIZURE OF EXPLOSIVES - LACOMBE, LOUISIANA, AUGUST 1963

I have on this date read the January 21, 1967, interview between CARLOS QUIROGA and yourself. In reading this I noticed your interest in arms, ammunition and explosives used by Cuban trainees at a training camp on the North side of Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. The following information was given to you orally but not in a formal manner therefore I am repeating these facts relative to the seizure of explosives in the approximate area of the Cuban training camp.

In AUGUST 1963, in LACOMBE, LOUISIANA, a large quantity of dynamite and bomb casings were seized on the property of WILLIAM J. McLANEY. It is assumed the FBI conducted this.

Others involved were:

VICTOR DOMINADOR ESPINOSA HERNANDEZ
CARLOS EDUARDO HERNANDEZ SANCHEZ
JOHN KOCK GENE
ACELO PEDROS AMORES
MIGUEL ALVAREZ JIMENEZ
ANTONIO SOTO VASQUEZ
-SAM BENTON
BYRON CHIVERTON
-RICH LAUCHLI (or LUCHLI)
EARL J. WASEM, JR.
-RALPH FOLKERTS

AMORES once reported an airstrip 40 miles West of New Orleans where aircraft - B25's or B26's - were kept. This report was to a Federal Agency.

CHIVERTON was possibly co-owner of the LACOMBE property and resided at 4207 Fontainebleau Drive, New Orleans.

LAUCHLI (or LUCHLI) was proprietor of LAXCO MACHINE SHOP, which apparently was in COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS.

McLANEY may be the same one who had extensive gambling interests in HAVANNA, CUBA, prior to the CASTRO administration. He was evicted from CUBA by CASTRO and it is reasonable to assume he suffered considerable financial losses.

In your interview with QUIROGA he mentioned using U-HAUL trailers. A U-HAUL trailer was used to transport these explosives (approximately 2500 pounds) by some of the above mentioned LATINS. The license of this trailer was FLORIDA 7E-868 and possibly came from FLORIDA (JACKSONVILLE) through RALPH FOLKERTS.

This information was received by me on 6 January 1967 from very reliable source whom I prefer not to identify herein at this time.

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WILLIAM CURVICH to GARRISON

Subsequent to this I was informed this seizure was made in the first block of "PONTCHARTRAIN" in BIG BRANCH, LOUISIANA. This community is immediately west of LACOMBE. The building from which the explosives were seized was described as a residence setting about 100 yards back on the West side of the road or street and had a large garage. Two aerial photography missions in the COVINGTON-BIG BRANCH-LACOMBE area failed to disclose a building of acceptable comparison. Due to the abundance of tall pine trees a ground survey would perhaps be more fruitful.

Your attention is invited to reports of ADA ALVIN OSER relative to an arms cache in this area. His reports cover arms but not explosives but does refer to "PONTCHARTRAIN" STREET.

I will attempt to develop more information from my contacts in order to secure the exact location.

William H. Curvich
WILLIAM H. CURVICH

WHG:wg

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